

Appl. No. : 10/563,452
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized identity matching management method for regulating the issue of secure assets, the method comprising:

an issuer of an asset receiving a request for release of the asset from a receiver of the asset;

identifying ~~an~~the asset having a ~~unique~~-classification identifier;

after the request, identifying an~~the~~ issuer of the asset; and

after the request, identifying a~~the~~ receiver of the asset, wherein identifying the issuer and identifying the receiver each comprise:

a management computer receiving a request to initiate the capture process from a capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric of the issuer or the receiver;

the management computer responding to the request by returning a message to the capture apparatus, the message comprising a unique code, wherein receipt of the message comprising the code at the capture apparatus causes initiation of the capture process;

the capture apparatus encoding a captured biometric of the issuer or of the receiver ;

the management computer, after returning the message, receiving the encoded captured biometric; and

the management computer decoding the captured biometric and initiating a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and generating an identification code representative of the issuer or of the receiver of the asset when a match is found;

retrieving a privilege of the receiver to determine whether the privilege matches ~~an asset~~the classification identifier of the asset; and, if a match is determined:
~~determined~~

issuing the asset and recording information to form a use record relating to the issue of the asset.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the management computer returning the message to the capture apparatus occurs at a first time, the management computer receiving the encoded captured biometric occurs at a second time, and the management computer operating to decode the encoded captured biometric and initiate the matching process only when the second time is less than a time interval later than the first time.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising generating an alert if the privilege does not match the asset classification.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the asset comprises at least one of firearms, weapons, batons, pharmaceutical medications and products, narcotics, precious metals and legal documents.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the unique classification identifier is securely attached to, or imprinted directly onto or into, the asset.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the unique classification identifier comprises a barcode.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the unique classification identifier comprises a radio frequency identifier.

8. (Currently Amended) A computerized identity matching management method for regulating the return of secure assets, the method comprising:

identifying an asset having a unique classification identifier;

identifying a receiver who seeks to return the asset, identifying the receiver comprising:

a management computer receiving a request to initiate the capture process, from a capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric of the receiver;

the management computer responding to the request by returning a message to the capture apparatus, the message comprising a unique code, wherein receipt of the message comprising the code at the capture apparatus causes initiation of the capture process;

the capture apparatus encoding a captured biometric of the receiver;

the management computer, after returning the message, receiving the encoded captured biometric; and

the management computer decoding the captured biometric and initiating a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and generating an identification code representative of the receiver when a match is found;

retrieving a privilege of the receiver to determine whether the privilege matches ~~an~~the asset classification identifier of the asset; and, if a match is ~~determined~~determined:

retrieving the asset from the receiver and recording information to form a use record relating to the retrieval of the asset.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, further comprising identifying an issuer of assets to whom the asset is returned, wherein identifying the issuer comprises:

the management computer receiving a request to initiate the capture process, from a capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric of the issuer;

the management computer responding to the request by returning a message to the capture apparatus at a first time, the message comprising a unique code and receipt of the message comprising the code at the capture apparatus causing initiation of the capture process;

the capture apparatus encoding a captured biometric;

the management computer, after returning the message, receiving the encoded captured biometric; and

the management computer decoding the captured biometric and initiating a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and generating an identification code representative of the issuer when a match is found.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, where the management computer returning the message to the capture apparatus occurs at a first time, the management computer receiving the encoded captured biometric occurs at a second time, and the management

computer operating to decode the encoded captured biometric and initiate the matching process only when the second time is less than a time interval later than the first time.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, wherein the asset comprises any one or more of firearms, weapons, batons, pharmaceutical medications and products, narcotics, precious metals, and legal documents.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, wherein the unique classification identifier is securely attached to, or imprinted directly onto or into, the asset.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, where the unique classification identifier comprises a barcode.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, where the unique classification identifier comprises a radio frequency identifier.

15. (Previously Presented) A computerized identity matching management system for regulating the issue of, or the return of, secure assets, the system comprising:

- a data depository configured to store records of assets each asset having a unique asset classification identifier and to store a record of receivers and a privilege for each receiver;

- an asset identifier configured to identify the asset to be issued or to be returned;

- a computer programmed to:

- receive a request to initiate a capture process from a capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric so as to identify a receiver who is requesting the issue of an asset or the return of an asset;

- respond to the request by returning a message to the capture apparatus, the message comprising a unique code, wherein receipt of the message comprising the code at the capture apparatus causes initiation of the capture process;

- after returning the message, receive a captured biometric from the capture apparatus encoded with the code; and

- to decode the captured biometric; and

- an authentication server configured to perform a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and to generate an identification code representative of the receiver who is requesting the issue of an asset or

the return of an asset when a match is found, the server further configured to retrieve the privilege of the receiver to determine whether the privilege matches the asset classification identifier, and if a match is determined to form a use record relating to the issue of the asset or the return of the asset.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~process~~-system according to claim 15, wherein the management computer returning the message to the capture apparatus occurs at a first time, the management computer receiving the encoded captured biometric occurs at a second time, and the management computer operating to decode the encoded captured biometric and initiate the matching process only when the second time is less than a time interval later than the first time.

17. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the computer is further programmed to identify an issuer of assets.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the use record of each asset further includes the date and time that the asset was issued by the issuer and received by the receiver.

19. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the use record of each asset includes a date and a time that the issuer received the asset.

20. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the computer is further programmed such that if a match is determined, a message is generated authorizing the release of the asset to the receiver.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the computer is further programmed such that if a match is not determined the issuer is alerted.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the asset identifier comprises a radio frequency reader.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 15, where the asset identifier comprises a barcode reader.

24. (Canceled)